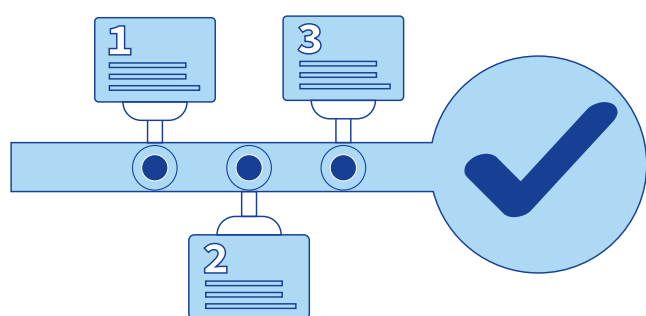


The European Statistics Code of Practice



Quality is one of European statistics' comparative advantages. But quality is a multi-faceted, relative concept that affects all aspects of the operation of an institution. Therefore, quality in official statistics covers not only the statistical outputs, but also the statistical processes that produce them and the institutional environment in which the statistical authorities operate.

This three-line approach is reflected in the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#) – the cornerstone of the ESS quality framework. The Code sets the standards for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics.



The Code seeks to ensure that statistics produced within the [European Statistical System \(ESS\)](#) are relevant, timely and accurate, and that they comply with the principles of professional independence, impartiality and objectivity. The ultimate aim of the Code is to ensure the high quality of European statistics and thus merit the trust of their users.

All statistical authorities of the ESS commit to adhering to the Code.

The Code was first adopted in 2005 and subsequently revised in 2011 and 2017. In 2017 a Principle (1bis) was developed to cover coordination and cooperation both within the national statistical systems and, more broadly, within the ESS. Furthermore, the 2017 edition aims at reflecting the latest changes and innovations in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in the European Statistical System and beyond, such as emerging new data sources, use of new technologies, modernisation of the legal framework and statistical production.

